(a) whether Government have taken adequate steps to defend the constitutional provisions and amendments that were recently challenged before the Supreme Court of India; and

(b) if so, what are the important constitutional provisions under challenge at present?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has always been taking adequate steps to defend all the cases before the Supreme Court in which any constitutional provisions or any amendment has been challenged.

Rural/mobile courts

†461. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating setting up rural courts or mobile courts with a view to providing inexpensive fast justice to the villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the above scheme is being introduced initially and the time by when it is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, details of the schemes of Government to provide inexpensive and fast justice to the villagers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

National Judicial Council

462. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a National Judicial Council to probe any misconduct by a judge of Supreme Court or High Court;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether an independent legislation is proposed to be introduced in this regard and if so, by when; and

(c) the essential features of the proposed legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to introduce a Bill, namely Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 during the current session of Parliament.

(c) The Bill shall devise a suitable legislative framework for empowering a judicial forum to deal with complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

VRS by officers/employees in Supreme Court

463. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of officers/employees opting for VRS in the Supreme Court of India has increased;

(b) how many officers/employees have taken VRS during the last three years and how many actually applied for the same; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that officers/employees serving in a particular stream in the Supreme Court are more inclined towards VRS as compared to those serving in administration etc.; if so, the break up for last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of officers/employees who have taken VRS during the last three years is as below:

Year 2003	-	07
Year 2004	-	06
Year 2005	-	15

(c) The Supreme Court has informed that voluntary retirement has been taken by officers/officials belonging to various cadres and there is no dominance of any particular cadre in such retirements.